DEMAND XIII—ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE.

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon : Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 27,19,590 under Demand XIII—Electricity and Telephone.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai : Sir, I wish to point out only one thing in speaking on this Demand. I want to suggest that, so far as the Telephone Department is concerned, with regard to calls, some fee should be levied. As a matter of fact, in many of the houses of officers where phones are installed, I do not know whether the absolute necessities alone are satisfied by this instrument. Therefore, I would suggest a small fee so that this Department may bring in some revenue. A limit may be fixed for free calls and anybody exceeding those limits will have to pay a small sum, say half an anna per call or quarter of an anna, because, otherwise, there will be very much of waste and unnecessary talk and often disturbance in the work done by officers, more so in their houses than in their offices. I think, everywhere excepting Travancore, there is some fee levied for telephone calls. The number of calls can be ascertained. The officials are not the only sinners in this respect, but there are public institutions like hotels and other places where all people going there use the phone without payment, sometimes for purposes not very urgent or necessary. Therefore, I wish to bring this aspect of the question about the Telephone Department to the immediate notice of the Electrical Engineer to Government.

Another point that I wish to suggest is regarding electrical charge in the Quilon Town. The Quilon Municipality is getting very much less income than it was getting before. Even before the Trivandrum Municipality extended its service to the various parts of the town, the Quilon town helped the Electrical Department by installing electric light in the several parts of the town. Now that Quilon is connected with Pallivasal, the cost of electricity should certainly be reduced and there is no reason why it should be kept at such a higher rate. I also find that Quilon is contributing more than any other similar area to the Department. Therefore, I think by reducing the rates the consumption will increase. With these suggestions I support the Demand.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar : I support the demand. The question of pumping out water from the Kayal lands in the Vembanad Reclamation by utilising electric power was taken up early this year. Experiments were tried in two blocks and I am happy to inform the House that the ryots do appreciate very much the work of the Department. They are convinced that pumping water by electric power is not only comparatively cheaper but avoids a lot of trouble attendant with draining the water by means of oil

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[Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar]

or gas engines. I am told that there is a proposal to take up pumping in 3 or 4 blocks of the Reclamation during the ensuing season. On account of the situation created by the war, I am afraid that crude oil may not be available in sufficient quantities for the oil engines that are to be worked in the area. If at all they are available, they may be available only at a higher price. Under such state of affairs I would urge upon the department to extend the scheme to as many of the blocks as possible during the ensuing season, and to see that gradually the whole of the Punja area is drained by electric power.

Another matter which I wish to bring to the attention of the Department is about the insects which work considerable havoc to paddy cultivation. Many experiments were tried to combat the insects but no proper remedy has as yet been found out. It is an established fact that light has got the power to attract insects. By experience also I am convinced that light has got the capacity to attract certain moths. A few years ago there was no mosquito at Taikad. When the electric light was installed we have got enough of mosquitoes there. The electric light has attracted the mosquitoes there. In the same manner powerful light, if switched on in the midst of extensive area of paddy fields at the time when generally the attack occurs, will, I feel confident be able to attract the insects towards the light. These moths are a sort of carterpillar pests or "ചാഴി" as they are called and they will be attracted towards the light.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai: May I know where they come from?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: I do not know. Where there is light, they are attracted there. Even when we use our lantern or petromax light, these moths are attracted to some extent.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know whether this process has been tried anywhere else?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: I do not know. I feel that they could be attracted by light and if it is coloured light it will be more attractive to the insects.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: May I know what the member proposes to do for destroying them?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: I am coming to that. When we find that the insects are being attracted by the light, some contrivance should be fitted to draw them up, collect and destroy. Some fan may be used for collecting them to one side and they may be destroyed.

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Mr. T. W. U. Park: Is the honourable member aware of the fact that an apparatus called "Entoray" has been tried in Madras and elsewhere for the purpose he has in view and that it has not been altogether successful ?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: I do not know anything about it. I am just requesting the Electrical Engineer to find out some means by which these moths could be attracted, collected in a receptacle and then killed.

Another thing I have to suggest is that Travancore is importing every year large quantities of petrol. All this is being consumed by the car owners. The amount that goes out of Travancore for the purpose is enormous. If electric motors and charged batteries could be replaced in place of petrol machinery and if there are stations where these charged batteries could be had on payment of some fees at various centres, we can prevent the Travancore money going out and the income from the department considerably increased.

Mr. T. Krishna Pillai: May I know whether he has any idea of the cost of an electric car ?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: I said electrical batteries. A charged battery may be placed in a car which can be used to run it to a certain distance where it can again be charged in some stations on payment of a small fee. If we have certain stations like that we can easily replace them. I think the Electrical Engineer is competent to clear any doubt of the honourable members. I know absolutely nothing about the technique of this subject. With these words I support the Demand.

Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe: സർ, തിരുവിതാംകൂർ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ സാമ്പത്തികാഭിവൃദ്ധിക്ക ഏറ്റവും പര്യാപ്തമായ പള്ളിവാസൽ പദ്ധതി ഉൽഘാടനം ചെയ്തതിനശേഷം ആദ്യമായി കൂടുന്ന ബഡ്ജറ്റ്സമ്മേളനത്തിൽ ഈ പദ്ധതി ഉൽഘാടനം ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുള്ള ഭാഗ്യം സിദ്ധിച്ച ദിവാൻജിഅവർകളെ അഭിനന്ദിക്കുന്നതിന എനിക്ക പ്രത്യേകം സന്തോഷം ഉണ്ട്. അതിന്റെ പൂർത്തീകരണത്തിനായി പലതരത്തിലുള്ള വിഷമങ്ങളെ തരണം ചെയ്യേണ്ടിവന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. സ്റ്റേറ്റുകാൺഗ്രസ്സിന്റെ പ്രധാനപ്രവർത്തനകാലത്തുപോലും രാജധാനിയിൽനിന്ന വളരെ ദൂരം സ്ഥിതി ചെയ്യുന്ന പള്ളിവാസലിൽപോയി ഇതിന്റെ വേലകൾ പരിശോധിക്കുന്നതിന വളരെ ഉത്സാഹം ഇദ്ദേഹം പ്രദർശിപ്പിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. കോതമംഗലത്തു ഞങ്ങൾ അദ്ദേഹത്തിന്റെ വരവു നോക്കി നിന്നപ്പോൾ വലിയ മഴയായിരുന്നു. ഈ മഴയുടെ ഉപദ്രവം തീരെ വകവയ്ക്കാതെ അദ്ദേഹം അതിലേക്കായി പുറപ്പെട്ടുകയാണ് ചെയ്തത്.

ഇലക്ട്രിക്ക് കറൻറ് ജനങ്ങൾ ധാരാളം ഉപയോഗിക്കത്തക്കവിധത്തിൽ അതിന്റെ ചാർജ്ജ് വ്യത്യാസപ്പെടുത്തേണ്ടതാണ്. പള്ളിവാസ

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[Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe]

ലിനെ അടുത്തുതന്നെയുള്ള പലക്കും കറൻറ് ഉപയോഗപ്പെടുത്തിയാൽകൊള്ളാമെന്നുണ്ട്. ഞാൻ അവരോട് ചോദിച്ചതിൽ റേറിന്റെ കൂടുതൽ കൊണ്ടാണ് അവർ ഉപയോഗിക്കാത്തതെന്നാണ് സമാധാനം പറഞ്ഞത്. പറവൂർതാലൂക്കിൽ ഉള്ള കുത്യതോട്ട എന്ന സ്ഥലത്തു നൂറ് ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലം ഈ കറൻറിന്റെ സഹായം കൊണ്ടു വെള്ളം പമ്പു കൃഷിചെയ്യാൻ ഇടയായി. ആ കൃഷിക്കാരും ഇന്നത്തെ റേറു കുറച്ചാൽ മാത്രമേ ആദായം ഉള്ളു എന്നാണ് പറയുന്നത്. ഇന്നു അവക്കു കൃഷി നടത്തുന്നതിനു ചിലവായിക്കൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നതിനെക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ തുക കറൻറുപയോഗിച്ചാൽ ചിലവാകും. അതുകൊണ്ടാണ് അവർ റേറു കുറക്കണമെന്നാവശ്യപ്പെട്ടന്നത്.

അനേകം സ്ഥലത്തു ജനങ്ങൾ വെള്ളമില്ലാതെ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുന്നുണ്ട്. കിണറിൽനിന്നും പമ്പുചെയ്യ വെള്ളം മുകളിൽ കയറുന്നതിനുള്ള മെഷീൻ ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽനിന്നും ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വാങ്ങിച്ചുകൊടുത്തു ഇൻസ്റ്റാൾമെൻറായി പണം അവരിൽ നിന്നും ഈടാക്കിയാൽ അനേകം സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ കൃഷി ചെയ്യുന്നതിനുള്ള സൌകര്യം കിട്ടും.

ഇനി എനിക്കു പറയുവാനുള്ളതു ടെലിഫോണിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചാണ്. പബ്ലിക്കു കാളിനു ഫീസുവച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെങ്കിലും മിക്കവാറും സമയങ്ങളിൽ ടെലിഫോൺ ആഫീസുകളിൽ ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥന്മാരില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങൾക്കതു പ്രയോജനപ്പെടുന്നില്ല.

President: Has the honourable member or anybody else complained of the absence of the man in charge during official hours? It is a very serious matter and Government will take serious notice if anybody complains about it. I have not received any complaints. Mr. Menon have you received any?

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon: I have not received any, Sir.

President: If any responsible officer of the telephone office is absent during working hours, the matter should be at once brought to the notice of the authorities.

Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe: ഞാൻതന്നെ പലപ്രാവശ്യം കോന്നമംഗലത്തുനിന്നും കോട്ടയത്തേക്കു വിളിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. കോട്ടയം എക്സ്ചെയിഞ്ചിൽ ആളില്ലാതിരിക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ചിലപ്പോൾ അരമണിക്കൂറിലധികം കാത്തുനിൽക്കേണ്ടതായി വന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്.

Mr Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: കോട്ടയത്തു വിളിച്ചപ്പോൾ വിളിച്ചയാളിനെ കാണാത്തതുകൊണ്ടാണോ അരമണിക്കൂർവരെ കാത്തിരിക്കേണ്ടിവന്നതു?

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Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe: വള്ളിച്ചയാളിനെ കാണാത്തതാണു കാരണമെങ്കിൽ ഞാൻ ഇതിവിടെ പറയുകയില്ലല്ലോ. ഈമാതിരിയുള്ള കാര്യകർമ്മം വരുമ്പോൾ ആഫീസിൽ ചുമതലയുള്ള ആളുകർമ്മം കാണുന്നില്ല എന്നാണു ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു്:

President : What are the working hours there?

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon : At Kottayam, both day and night.

Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe : കല്ലാർസൈഡിൽ പബ്ലിക്ക് കാര്യത്തിനു ഫീസ് സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതു നന്നായിരിക്കും. ഇപ്പോൾ ഒരു ഫോൺ ഉള്ള സ്ഥലത്തു ആളുകർമ്മക്കു് ഇരിക്കാൻ ഒരു ഷെഡ്ഡില്ല. അവിടെ ഒരു ഷെഡ്ഡു പണിയിക്കണമെന്നുകൂടി ഞാൻ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar : Sir, I support the Demand and in doing so, I wish to make one or two complaints about the supply of electricity in places where the power is used to be supplied by the licensees. I have particularly the instance of Kottayam in mind, where the charge per unit now is the same as it was before the Pallivasal Hydro Electric power became available.

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon : May I inform the member that it has been recently revised and brought on a par with the Hydro-Electric Scheme.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar : May I know what the rate is?

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon : It is published in the Government Gazette.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar : May I know the exact figure?

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon : 4½ annas per unit.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar : From which date?

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon : I think it is from the 1st of Chingom.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar : It has not come into effect.

Sir, I was about to say that in the beginning the maximum rate charged under the Act was at the rate of 8 annas. And I know that rate was in vogue for over three years. It was after many representations were made by the consumers that the rate was reduced to 6 annas. And I think till the last month this was the rate per unit. But I am thankful to the honourable member for informing me that the rate has been further reduced to 4½ annas per unit.

Sir, there are two or three main fields which will enhance the revenue to Government if the utility service is expanded. One of them, as was pointed out by Mr. Ananthasiva Aiyar is by giving

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[Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar]

the power for pumping water in the Kuttanad area. Experiments have been conducted in two or three fields and I am glad to state that the head of the department has seriously considered the question of extending the service to the Kuttanad area. But there are obvious difficulties for the department to enter into transactions with contractors who conduct this work for the ryots. But if it is through a Co-operative Society that the department is to distribute power, then I think there will not be any difficulty.

President: Then why not the honourable member himself try to organise a co-operative society for the purpose and then apply to Government for concession ?

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: Sir, unless Government encourages such a co-operative Society .....

President: This very same matter was brought up before me by certain gentlemen about three years ago.

Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar: Sir, I have told the honourable member about this two years ago.

President: Special facilities both in the matter of rates and otherwise were promised by me to those gentlemen who waited on me in a deputation. But nothing is heard about the scheme now.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: Sir, it is not the question of concession in the matter of rates. But the difficulty is with regard to the collections of dues.

President: In other words, does the honourable member want that Government should enforce the provision contained in the Revenue Recovery Act to collect the dues ?

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: Either the Revenue Recovery Act should be resorted to or it should be provided with special power to realise the amount from the produce itself treating the produce as a first charge for this purpose. Sir, there are innumerable instances where contractors are defeated in their attempt to collect the dues. But if power is given to a Co-operative Society or to a Syndicate to collect the dues they will pay the whole amount thus collected in a lump to Government. Unless some such statutory provision is made to enable a co-operative society or any similiar organisation to collect the dues.. ...

President: Don't they get that special power if they are organised as co-operative Societies ?

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: Sir, but we have seen that the Co-operative movement is a failure in the State.

President: But that is with regard to the ordinary money lending and money borrowing societies. But here the organisation is of a special nature.

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Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: The mere formation of a co-operative society for paying dues to Government and distribute power to its members may not serve the purpose in view. But Government should formulate rules enabling that organisation to collect dues from the owners of the paddy fields every year. Otherwise it will not be successful.

Another source of revenue which can be tapped by the expansion of the utility service is by extending the power to the Peermade area. I believe that there are about one hundred estates in the region covering an area of over 50,000 acres. At present all these estates use gas engines and oil engines. They now find it difficult to continue the use of gas engines for want of fuel. Sir, fuel is very difficult to get in those parts. The price for fuel now is two or three times of what it was on former times. In the matter of crude oil the price of the oil has gone up very high owing to war conditions. What they usually got for Rs. 60 or Rs. 70 per ton the price of that is now Rs. 90 to Rs. 95 per ton. I think that it is a very useful field for the consumption of power if the Government would consider it. About two years ago, it is known, a circular was sent to that area with regard to the distribution of power from Pallivasal.

President: Honourable members may perhaps know that intimation was sent to all the firms in Peermade that they should take power within a certain period failing which they will not be able to get the concessions asked for. But they promised to communicate to me after they have consulted their head offices in England.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: Sir, my information is that most of the firms would take up power.

President: Mr. Menon, have you received any communication?

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon: Yes, Sir; one communication from the Chairman of the Central Travancore Produce Company.

Mr. James Fletcher: Sir, we have been congratulating the Government for having succeeded in making the electric supply scheme of Pallivasal a real achievement. There have been doubts and fears in some quarters. There have been obstacles and objections from certain other quarters. In spite of all those things, by real capacity and estimable common sense Government succeeded to make the scheme a successful one. To my mind the Pallivasal Hydro Electric Scheme would prove a great source of blessing for our country for years to come. Much good may be derived from the scheme which will conduce to the prosperity of the State. Having seen the overhead lines while on my way to Munnar I

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[Mr. James Fletcher.]

thought Trivandrum also could have the advantages of having that power. I am really anxious to see that electric supply from the Pallivasal scheme comes to the Capital. When it comes it will be a grand day for us.

In this connection, I may refer to the use that could be made of the generators that have been installed in various places. Now electric power is supplied to Alwaye and Quilon. The generators and machines which are already there will become unnecessary because those power houses will have to be closed down as not to bring any loss to Government.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan : I do not propose to speak on this motion Sir.

Mr. A. Eswara Pillai : Sir, I also support this Demand. As the same time I wish to draw the attention of the Government and the department about one particular point. It is stated in the Financial Secretary's statement that the capacity of the power house at Pallivasal is about 9,000 K. W. and the total quantity of power that can be generated from there ultimately, 31500 K. W. Now we are told that there is a great incentive on the part of the people to make use of electricity. Just after the opening of this scheme about 1500 persons have contracted with the department for connections. Sir, the Aluminium Production Co. Ltd., has already contracted with the department for about 3000 K. W. for the next two years and they may require 7500 K. W. immediately after that time. Ultimately they have demanded for 14500 K. W. We must at the same time, remember that the total of quantity of power that can be generated in Pallivasal power house is 31,500 K. W. is given to the Aluminium company the balance will be only 17000 K. W. This quantity is quite insufficient for local use.

President : That is also local

Mr. A. Eswara Pillai : Sir, the declared policy of Government is to industrialise our country. For that purpose a large quantity of power is required. Perhapse the demand from the people is not very large at present as the scheme is only started just now. But we will have to reserve sufficient quantity of power for satisfying the country's demand. If a foreign company is given 14000 k w., though it is working here, in Travancore, the profits would go to the foreign capitalists. Hence we cannot claim that concern is ours. So my request is that the balance power should be reserved as far as possible for the demands of the people of the State.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon : May I know whether it will not be sufficient to tackle fresh sources if and when there is more demand ?

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Mr. A. Eswara Pillai : But the ultimate capacity of the power house is limited to 31500 K. W. and a few years hence this quantity will be found insufficient and the question of tapping other sources is not very easy, because it involves lakhs of rupees.

Sir, Kottarakara is only six miles from Kundara. The Pallivasal line is extended now up to Kundara and I request the electrical Engineer to consider the feasibility of extending the line to Kottarakara. There are street lights lighted by kerosine oil. If electric power is utilised instead of kerosine, the lighting could be done at a cheaper rate. Further I can guarantee several consumers in the locality. So, I draw the pointed attention of the Electrical Engineer to consider this point.

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon : Sir, I shall deal seriatim with the various points that have arisen in the course of the discussions. One of the Honourable members referred to the necessity for levying a special fee for telephone calls, if such calls exceed a certain number. It is quite true that such a system is in vogue in many places.

President : Honourable member will kindly speak up.

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon : The system of charging a fee based on the number of calls is in vogue in Madras, Bombay and other places and it was thought of for Trivandrum also. But it was subsequently considered too premature in view of the fact that our system was still in an infant stage. With a view to encourage the use of telephones among the public at large it was considered desirable to place no restriction on the ulimited use of phones ; but the time has now come to review the position and for that purpose statistics are being collected to find out the number of calls from each subscriber's station.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : May I know whether the installation of loud speakers would not be a good thing with regard to the improvement of the Honourable Member's speech ?

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon : Sir, with regard to the delay mentioned by the honourable member Mr. Kuriyppe, in respect of public calls, I may say that no such complaint has been received by me. Kottayam is a junction Station with communications on four lines and it may be that at the time when the honourable member wanted to put a call through that, the line was engaged. It is possible later on to minimise such inconveniences by duplicating the lines to cope up with the trunk density. But this may not be justifiable at present.

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Mr. E. K. Kuriyppe: കോതമംഗലത്തിനും ചിത്തിരപുരത്തിനും ഇടയ്ക്കു നാലഞ്ചു സ്റ്റേഷനുകൾ ഉണ്ടല്ലോ. അവിടെ ഇലക്ട്രിക സപ്ലൈ ഇല്ലാത്തതു എന്തുകൊണ്ടെന്നറിഞ്ഞാൽ കൊള്ളാം.

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon: Sir, there are no telephone stations between Kothamangalam and Chithirapuram except pillar-boxes which are normally locked up. So there is no point in saying that conversations between Chithirapuram and Kothamangalam are over-heard.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: May I know the rates in Quilon at present?

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon: The rate at present is two annas per unit for the street light. This rate is more or less the same as is prevalent in other places where power is obtained from hydro electric sources.

As regards the energy charges for the Municipal lights in Quilon, I have to inform the honourable member Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai that the tariff for the Quilon Municipality was revised only about an year ago and the Municipality got a reduction of twenty per cent corresponding to a saving of about Rs. two thousand per annum. It was then thought that the Pallivasal Hydro-Electric Scheme would come into operation in a year or so.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: Sir, may I ask whether it is against public interests to make this speech audible to all sections of this House and the press?

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon: As regards power for industrial purposes, I am afraid that Mr. Kuriyppe's statement that the rates obtained now are not comparable with the cost of power from other sources is not correct. Experience so far has shown that over one thousand horse power power plants in the rural areas have already changed over to hydro electric power and this will establish clearly that there is considerable saving on account of the use of electric power.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: May I know whether the other villages are getting similar supplies?

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon: Sir, there is always a tendency on the part of the owners of power plant to bargain over rates to get them further reduced.

With regard to the extension of the supply to the Vembanad Reclamation area, an estimate of Rs. 2 Lakhs has been sanctioned by the Government and the work is taken in hand.

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The question of extending the supply to Kottarakara has been investigated and if there is a reasonable chance of getting a net return of over eight per cent on this extension, it will be taken up next year.

With regard to the use of electric power for destroying the insect pests, I am afraid I cannot give my information. I have seen the *Ento Ray* working and it has been claimed to be able to deal with pests over a large area. But I am afraid it has not yet been proved to be a commercial proposition.

With regard to the introduction of battery vehicles in this State, I may say that the proposition is still only in the experimental stage. It is true that as a result of the present war considerable improvement has been effected in the design and vehicles are now operating with batteries to cover a distance of sixty or seventy miles with one charge. As an experimental measure, it is proposed to introduce one vehicle in the Trivandrum Town service and for that purpose, I am in correspondence with the Director of Transport.

Regarding Mr. Kuriyppe's suggestion for the supply of machinery to prospective customers on hire purchase system, I may state that such a scheme is already before Government and a notification will shortly appear in the Government Gazette. Under this system, any *bona fide* purchaser can get from the department the necessary machinery after paying 20 per cent. of the cost in advance. The balance eighty per cent has to be repaid to the Government in regular instalments.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : കുട്ടനാടൻപ്രദേശങ്ങളിൽ മുഴുവൻ സ്ഥലത്തും ഇലക്ട്രിസിറ്റികൊടുക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമോ? സാധിക്കുമെങ്കിൽ കൂടുതൽ ചാർജ്ജ് കൊടുക്കേണ്ടിവരുമോ?

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon : It will be possible to supply power to the whole of Kuttanad in due course. The total requirements may be about 2000 H. P. There will be no special charge for this seasonal power as this is required when the river will be surplusing at Munnar at that time and there is necessity to draw on the main.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : ഇപ്പോൾ ആലോചനയിലിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലത്തെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു മാത്രമല്ലാ ഞാൻ ചോദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ളത്.

Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon: Sir, I am speaking of the ultimate requirements for the whole of Kuttanad.

With regard to the Peermade area, we have carried out a detailed survey of the route and also of the lines to the various estates and we have got complete data of all the requirements in that

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[Mr. K. P. Padmanabha Menon]

district. I am now in negotiation with the Central Travancore Planters' Association and I am hoping to meet their Chairman shortly along with our Consulting Engineer to go into the question of tariff with them.

Sir, the question of extending the hydro-electric supply to Trivandrum is an easy matter but this is not the proper time to take up this work as the price of materials required for that purpose has gone up by over thirty-five per cent. We have besides invested about six lakhs of rupees in the Trivandrum station of which only 60 per cent has been written off by way of depreciation. If we run the thermal plant here for another 2 or 3 years, the capital cost of the station could still be reduced and the investment on the transmission line extension will be more justified. The disposal of the second plant is being considered. But at the same time, it is thought it is advisable to retain the plant having regard to the possibility of an increased demand.

The demand for the Aluminium factory will be 4,500 K. W. immediately and it is very likely that this may go up to 75,000 K. W. within 3 years on account of the very large quantity of aluminium that has to be produced for the local market in India. Even if the full quantity of power required for the Aluminium company, *viz.* 14,500 K. W. is supplied, we will still have some 17,000 K. W. of power left which will be ample to meet all the needs of the existing industries in the State, besides making a reasonable provision of another 10,000 H. P. for the industries likely to come later on. Even assuming that all the power that can be produced at Pallivasal is used up, it is possible to tap other sources which are equally economic. (Bell).

The question that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 27,19,590 under Demand No. XIII—Electricity and Telephone was put to vote and declared passed.

The grant was made.

DEMAND No. XV—AGRICULTURE.

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar: Sir, I beg to move for a grant of Rs. 1,88,600 under Demand No. XV—Agriculture.

President: Order, order. I do not think that this Demand will be over by five o' clock. Honourable members are aware that at five o' clock there are certain elections to be conducted. As on an enquiry I find that both the Honourable members on the Panel of Chairmen are standing for election, I am asking Mr. G. Narayana Iyer to preside over the elections which will take place at five o' clock.

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